levied under this head in 1099 was practically the same as that levied in 1097, the number of cases disposed of was nearly treble. Another rule, *viz.*, Rule 35 of the Land Records Maintenance Rules, which has created a certain amount of misunderstanding and is possibly causing some hardship, is being re-examined with a view to its being made innocuous.

10. A large and substantial amount of work has been done by the land records staff, especially in taluks like Nedumangad, by way of regularising the past indiscriminate occupation of lands at the disposal of the Government. As, however, this work gets merged in that of general *puduval* registry, it is difficult to gauge accurately its volume and value.

11. Transfer of Registry. In paragraph 12 of my address last year, I explained the simplified procedure adopted for the disposal of pending *pokkuvaravu* cases, with a view to have all arrears under that head wiped off in advance of the preparation of correct electoral rolls in connection with the general elections to the Legislative Council during the current year. Under this procedure, the sub-division survey preliminary to the disposal of *pokkuvaravu* cases was dispensed with and the issue of *patta* made optional on the application of the parties concerned. As a result of this arrangement and of the special exertions of the special officer charged with the supervision of this work, 1,06,798 cases were disposed of in 1099, against 48,362 cases in 1098, and it is gratifying to note that the 34,768 cases pending at the end of that year were also disposed of before the close of Tulam, 1100, the work being thus brought up-to-date.

12. Administration of Land Revenue. In 1099, the annual *jamabandi* was conducted in all the taluks except Karunagapalli, where it had to be postponed to Chingam, 1100, owing to the floods in Karkatakam last. The object of *jamabandi* is, as I said in my address last year, to afford regular facilities to the superior land revenue officers to conduct a uniform examination of land revenue registers and accounts, thereby securing greater efficiency in land revenue administration, and to fix more accurately the land revenue demand for the year, thus minimising leakage of public revenue. The reports on the annual *jamabandi* conducted for the first time in 1098 were scrutinised by the Government and reviewed in their Order Dis. No. 1130 of 24/Revenue, dated the 29th July, 1924. These reports have brought to light several defects and irregularities in the maintenance of taluk and village accounts and registers, and it now remains for the Land Revenue Commissioner and the *jamabandi* officers to see to their prompt and effective removal. The *jamabandi* officers have also made some useful suggestions calculated to improve land revenue administration and these have been referred to the Land Revenue Commissioner for opinion. It is under contemplation to issue a set of rules defining the duties and responsibilities of *pakuthi* subordinates, and the draft rules are now under the consideration of the Government. The practice of village officers making a house to house collection of *kist*, which entailed considerable waste of their time and prevented their services being turned to better account in other directions, was stopped in 1099. Though this resulted immediately in a large increase in the number of demand notices issued, it is gratifying to note that the amount involved in the auction sale of properties for arrears of *kist* showed a substantial reduction, which is indicative of the fact that coercive steps are in most cases the direct outcome of the negligence of *pattadars* and not their inability to pay up Government dues. The scheme of detailing some of the Division Assistants exclusively for revenue work and others for judicial, referred to in paragraph 13 of my address last year, is not yet ripe for the issue of final orders, but is engaging the earnest attention of the Government.

13. Floods. The south-west monsoon rains of 1099 were extraordinarily heavy, and in Karkatakam, there was considerable devastation in the central and northern parts of the State on account of unprecedentedly heavy floods. All the rivers—especially those of the Quilon, Kottayam and Devicolam Divisions—were in high flood for many days together, dealing death to cattle and destruction to property and crops as they swept down from the mountains to the sea. The sufferings to which the people, and particularly those of the low-lying tracts of Parur, Kunnatnad and

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Kuttanad, fell an easy prey were agonising in the extreme. The Government hastened to the rescue of the afflicted. Public spirit also rose equal to the occasion and the measures of relief organised and splendidly carried out by a willing people and a zealous body of officials did all that was possible for human agency to do. For the details of the several measures adopted and the relief given, I would invite you to a perusal of the press notes on the subject issued from time to time. Gratuitous relief to the extent of about half a lakh of rupees was afforded from the State exchequer, while a generous public, both in and outside the State, placed a sum of over Rs. 64,000 at the disposal of the Central Flood Relief Committee, which that committee applied with praiseworthy thoroughness both to immediate relief and to reconstruction purposes. The Land Revenue Commissioner was placed by the Government in special charge of relief and reconstruction operations; and the Chief Engineer was directed to start relief works in localities where the refugees could not find work. Building materials were arranged to be distributed by the Forest Department free of cost to the poor and at cost price to others. *Kandukrishi* paddy was set free and sold at favourable rates. The provision under agricultural loans was increased from Rs. 1,00,000 to Rs. 5,50,000, of which Rs. 5 lakhs were ear-marked for the relief of the agricultural population in the affected areas. Rs. 2,00,000 out of this amount were made available for distribution through co-operative societies and a special temporary staff of Inspectors was created for the purpose of helping the societies in the prompt and proper distribution of loans. Though lands in Central and North Travancore are not, under the Remission Rules, eligible for such concessions, the collection of *kist* for the Kanni crop of the year was suspended in seventy *pakuthies* of the Quilon Division and ninety-six *pakuthies* of the Kottayam Division, while it is under contemplation to allow remission of *kist* for the Kanni crop in the case of fifty-six *pakuthies* of the former Division and eighty-six *pakuthies* of the latter. All the taluks of the Quilon Division, except Shencottah and Karunagapalli, and all the taluks of the Kottayam Division, except Todupuzha, benefit by the above arrangements. The grant to the Public Works Department for the current year was increased by three lakhs of rupees for the restoration of communications, bridges, and irrigation and drainage works damaged by the floods, and the department has been prompt in carrying out the needed restoration works and in providing labour for the unemployed. By these and other measures, it has been possible for the Government to mitigate to a large extent the sufferings caused by the unprecedented floods which preceded the demise of His Highness Sri Mûlam Tirunâl; and the rehabilitation of the people and the restoration of normal conditions in the affected areas have, in the result, been remarkably quick. On behalf of the Government of Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent, I tender cordial acknowledgments to all those who have contributed to the relief of suffering on the occasion of this unforeseen visitation of nature.

14. Agriculture. The posts of Assistant Agricultural Chemist and Assistant Director of Agriculture, sanctioned in 1096, were filled in 1097 and 1098 respectively. An Economic Botanist was appointed tentatively for a period of two years from the 1st Chingam, 1099. The four State scholars who were prosecuting higher studies in Agriculture at Poona returned after passing the B. Ag. degree examination of the Bombay University, and two of them have been absorbed in the Department of Agriculture and the remaining two in that of Co-operation. Of the two scholars employed in the Agricultural Department, one has specialised in cattle breeding and improvement, and he has consequently been placed in charge of the cattle farms at Trivandrum and Isantimangalam. The soil survey of Nanjinad, Kuttanad and Vaikam has been so far completed, and bulletins on the soil survey of the first two areas are under issue. The Assistant Agricultural Chemist, who returned from Pusa in Medam, 1099, after a course of training in agricultural bacteriology, has taken up the bio-chemical investigation of peaty soils. The Government have sanctioned the proposals of the department for opening an experimental station at Purakkad for conducting field experiments on the reclamation of peaty soils, and arrangements are now in progress for starting the work. A nursery of cardamom seedlings has been opened on the High Ranges, and an area of three acres has been sown with selected seeds for raising healthy seedlings for distribution to cardamom cultivators.

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